Road accidents in Delhi

2258. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during late hours streets of Delhi become freeways and most of the traffic signals are switched to blinker mode;

(b) the number of deaths that have taken place since 1st January, 2002 in Delhi because of road accident;

(c) the names of blind spots and other spots where mishaps are likely to happen in Delhi;

(d) whether traffic police official are able to do little in this regard due to constraints of man-power; and

(e) if so, the corrective measures being taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The traffic signals are kept on signal mode round the clock at major intersections where the flow of traffic is very high. In other cases, the traffic signals are switched to blinking mode during the late hours after taking into account the vulnerability of these intersections to accidents and the number and type of vehicles using the intersections.

(b) During the year 2002 (Upto 30th June, 2002), 825 persons were killed in road accidents in Delhi.

(c) Delhi Police have identified 10 spots which are more prone to accidents. The names of these spots are Patel Road, Ashram Chowk, Azad Pur Sabzi Mandi, Inter-State Bus Terminus Chowk, Shymagiri Mandir, ITO Bus Stop, Nigam Bodh Ghat, Mukarba Chowk, All India Institute of Medical Sciences Chowk and Panjabi Bagh Chowk.

(d) In order to strengthen the Traffic Unit of Delhi Police, 1255 additional posts in various ranks were created by the Government in the year 1999. The number of accidents have progressively declined during the last two years.

(e) The steps taken by the Traffic Police to improve the traffic

management include use of radar guns, interceptors and red light speed cameras for checking over-speeding and red light jumping and enforcement of lane discipline; use of alcometer to check drunken driving; analysis of road accidents for identification of their actual cause so as to take remedial measures; imparting education to the public about traffic rules and safety norms; and setting up of traffic training parks for educating school children.

Earthquake danger in Uttaranchal

2259. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre warned a earthquake will strike major pilgrim centres like Badrinath, Kedarnath in Uttaranchal and whether Government have taken note of it;

(b) if so, the action plan drawn by Government to minimize or avert damage to life and property in the region;

(c) whether Government have drawn similar action plan with regard to impending earthquakes in other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre, Uttaranchal has not issued any warning for likely occurrence of earthquake in Uttaranchal.

(b) to (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to be in the state of preparedness and provide necessary relief to the affected people in the case of natural disasters. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments. It has so far been not possible to predict an earthquake in advance in regard to the timing, location and the intensity. The Central Government has already advised all the States falling in the seismic zones to prepare necessary action plans to meet any eventuality in case of an earthquake.